

10/539755

Amendments to the Claims:

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 20 JUN 2005

1-14. (canceled)

15. (new) A device for braiding a braided structure of at least largely of heavy-duty fibers having regions with a differing number of layers, comprising:

a braiding machine;

a fiber braiding core about which the braiding machine braids at least one layer of the braided structure;

a linear displacing apparatus for reversible displacement of the core relative to the braiding machine during braiding; and

a guiding apparatus which places at least one element onto the uppermost layer of the braided structure in an automated manner during a braiding reversal, the at least one element having defined stiff edge about which the fiber braiding is reversed.

16. (new) The device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the guiding apparatus has at least one horizontally and vertically movable arm acting on the at least one element.

17. (new) The device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the at least one element is arranged to enclose the core.

18. (new) The device as claimed in claim 17, wherein the element comprises at least two separate shells, each shell being positionable by an arm of the guiding apparatus.

19. (new) The device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the at least two shells can be braced against the core by means of a clamping element acting circumferentially on them.

20. (new) The device as claimed in claim 19, further comprising:
at least one further clamping apparatus with a plurality of stem elements arranged in an annular manner around the core.

21. (new) The device as claim in claim 20, wherein the stem elements have needles on their end faces closest to the core.

22. (new) The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the at least one clamping apparatus is displaceable along the core and the stem elements are radially displaceable relative to the core.

23. (new) The device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the stem element are radially displaced by pneumatic cylinders.

24. (new) The device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the at least one clamping apparatus is arranged in a horizontally displaceable manner.

25. (new) A method for producing a braided structure having regions with a differing number of layers, comprising the steps of:

braiding the braided structure in a number of layers onto a fiber braiding core wire a braiding machine, wherein the core is displaced relative to the braiding machine; and

creating differing numbers of braided fiber layers in different regions of the core by reversing the movement of the core relative to the braiding machine, wherein, during at least one movement reversal, an element with a defined, stiff doubling-over edge is brought in an automated manner onto the uppermost braided layer to hold the braided layer at a predefined reversal point, and following the reversal movement, the braiding machine continues braiding to form a doubled-over braided layer.

26. (new) The method as claimed in claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

fixing the doubled-over layer in an automated manner; and
removing the element with the doubling-over edge away from the reversal point.

27. (new) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein at least one outer layer is braided over the entire length of the core.

28. (new) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the individual layers are interconnected by tufting.